

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A multilayer ~~Multilayer~~ elastomeric material comprising:

at least two outer barrier layers L_1 and L_3 , respectively having a breaking stress σ_1 and σ_3 and a thickness e_1 and e_3 , enclosing

at least one intermediate layer L_2 consisting of an elastomeric matrix comprising at least one dispersion of droplets of at least one composition containing at least one active substance, the said intermediate layer L_2 having a breaking stress σ_{2Tot} and a thickness e_2 ,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mean diameter of the said droplets is at least greater than or equal to $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and that the said material satisfies the following double inequality (I):

$$(\sigma_{2Tot} \cdot e_2) < (\sigma_1 \cdot e_1) \text{ and } (\sigma_{2Tot} \cdot e_2) < (\sigma_3 \cdot e_3) \quad (I)$$

in which equality:

σ_{2Tot} represents the breaking stress of the charged elastomeric material constituting the layer L_2 , and

σ_1 , σ_3 , e_1 , e_2 and e_3 are as defined above.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The material ~~Material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the product $(\sigma_{2Tot} \cdot e_2)$ corresponds to the following double condition (II):

$$(\sigma_{2Tot} \cdot e_2) \leq (\sigma_1 \cdot e_1)/2 \text{ and } (\sigma_{2Tot} \cdot e_2) \leq (\sigma_3 \cdot e_3)/2 \quad (II)$$

in which σ_1 , σ_{2Tot} , σ_3 , e_1 , e_2 and e_3 are as defined ~~have the same meanings as those given in Claim 1.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended): The material ~~Material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ the breaking stresses σ_1 , σ_2 and σ_3 of each of the layers of the said material, which may be identical or different, range between 0.1 and 100 MPa.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The material ~~Material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the thicknesses e_1 , e_2 and e_3 of each of the layers of the said material, which may be identical or different, range between 25 and 500 μm .

Claim 5 (currently amended): The material ~~Material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the mean diameter of the said droplets is between 10 and 100 μm .

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the elastic constant, E_2 , of the constituent material of the intermediate layer L_2 is greater than each of the elastic constants, E_1 and E_3 , those of the barrier layers L_1 and L_3 , respectively (E_1 and E_3), i.e. $E_2 > \max(E_1, E_3)$.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the elastic constants E_1 , E_2 and E_3 of each of the layers L_1 , L_2 and L_3 , ~~i.e. E_1 , E_2 and E_3 , respectively,~~ are between 0.1 and 50 MPa, ~~and~~ and the values of E_1 and E_3 being identical or different.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the elastic constants of the layers L_1 and L_3 , which may be identical or different, are between 0.1 and 10 MPa and the elastic constant of the layer L_2 is between 0.5 and 50 MPa.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the elastomer(s) constituting the outer barrier layers L_1 and L_3 and also the intermediate layer L_2 are chosen from natural rubber, polybutadiene, polyisoprene, polychloroprene, polyurethane, acrylic polymers or copolymers, silicone elastomers, SBR (*Styrene Butadiene Rubber*) copolymers, SEBS (*Styrene Ethylene Butylene Styrene*) copolymers and blends thereof.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ characterized in that the said elastomers are chosen from SIS (*Styrene Isoprene Styrene*) and SEBS (~~*Styrene Ethylene Butylene Styrene*~~).

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ at least one of the barrier layers L_1 and L_3 , and optionally and/or the intermediate layer L_2 , also contains one or more plasticizer(s) or flexibilizer(s).

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 11, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the plasticizer(s) represent(s) from 5 to 500 parts per 100 parts of elastomer constituting the layer in which they are present.

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ each layer L_1 or L_3 results from the superposition of two or more sublayers of equivalent or non-equivalent chemical nature.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the active chemical substance is chosen from anticorrosion agents, lubricants, chemical markers, phase-change products, energetic-particle (radiation) decelerators, agents with disinfecting power, odoriferous agents or moisturizers, dyes for detecting cuts, metallic particles, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the active chemical substance is chosen from biocides, biguanides, phthalaldehyde, phenolic derivatives, formaldehyde, nonionic surfactants comprising at least one polyoxyethylene sequence, hexamidine, iodinated polyvinylpyrrolidone compounds, nonionic surfactants with virucidal activity, sodium and potassium dichromates and hypochlorites, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the composition in the form of droplets also contains one or more diluents for dissolving the ~~said~~ active chemical substance(s).

Claims 17 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the dispersion composition in the form of droplets is in liquid, or gelled form or contains crystalline parts.

Claim 18 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the intermediate layer L_2 is formed from a superposition of two or more intermediate sublayers each comprising a dispersion of droplets, the nature of the active substances contained in each of the ~~said layers~~ sublayers being identical or different from one sublayer to another.

Claim 19 (currently amended): ~~The material~~ Material according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any of Claims 1-17, characterized in that~~ the intermediate layer L_2 is formed by a single layer containing a dispersion of droplets containing active chemical substances that are different from one droplet to another.

Claims 20-22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (new): A glove, comprising the elastomeric material of claim 1.

Claim 24 (new): A finger stall, comprising the elastomeric material of claim 1.

Claim 25 (new) A condom, comprising the elastomeric material of claim 1.

Claim 26 (new) A tape, comprising the elastomeric material of claim 1.

Claim 27 (new) A dressing, comprising the elastomeric material of claim 1.